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Another important point is the definite location of the Acanthodii as a third order of the Elasmobranchii, for what appear to be entirely valid reasons. These are quite sustained by the results of a study of several species of Acanthodes, published in 1890 by Dr. Otto Reis, in a paper which had not probably come into Dr. Woodward's hands in time for notice.⁴ The next important systematic step is the location of what is left of the old Placodermi after the abstraction of the Ostracophori, represented by the Coccosteidæ. These Dr. Woodward regards as Dipnoi, and the view is a plausible one. Doubtless paleontologists have no better place for them, and new evidence is likely to confirm the proposition. He names the order the Arthrodira.

Two orders of Teleostomi are adopted, the Crossopterygia and Actinopterygia; the Rhipidopterygia and Podopterygia being rejected. We have given reasons in the *NATURALIST* for April why we think these orders (or better, superorders) should be retained. Under Crossopterygia, four suborders are recognized,—viz., Haplistia (Tarrasiidæ); Rhipidistia (Holoptychiidæ, Rhizodontidæ, Osteolepididæ, and Onychodontidæ); Actinistia (Coelacanthidæ); and Cladistia (Polypteridæ). The Actinopterygia are divided into two sections, A and B, corresponding to our Podopterygia and Actinopterygia respectively. The present work enters only the former division, which includes the families Palæoniscidæ, Platysomatidæ, Catopteridæ, Chondrosteidæ, Belonorhynchidæ, Acipenseridæ, and Polyodontidæ. The volume concludes with the Platysomidæ.

Many important points in the structures of these fishes are discussed, and the species which are included are placed on a permanent basis. The work is illustrated by numerous good lithographs.—C.

Mrs. Bodington on Evolution.⁵—This book, of two and a quarter hundred pages, is a popular presentation of many of the facts discovered by the more modern laborers in several fields of biology. Its nine chapters treat of the following subjects: The evolution of the eye; extinct and surviving mammalia; the flora of the past; interesting facts in evolution; microorganisms as parasites; puzzles in paleontology; the air-bladders of fishes; Neo-Lamarckism; the origin of the fittest. The authoress' presentation of these topics is both graphic and scientific, and is well calculated to interest the gen-

⁴ Zurkenntnis des Skelets der Acanthodinen, von Dr. Otto M. Reis; Geogn. Jahreshefte des Kgl. bayer. Oberbergamts, 1890.

⁵ Studies in Evolution and Biology. By Alice Bodington. London: Elliott Stock, 8vo, 1890.

eral reader. In fact, the work is an excellent one to put into the hands of any person without scientific knowledge, who desires to get an insight into questions that occupy at present the scientific mind. An especial interest will attach to the book, in the minds of Americans, because many of the facts and conclusions described are derived from the work of their countrymen. This will be a recommendation to those foreign readers who do not desire the labor of searching the original sources in our scientific literature, for popularizers of American biologic work have not yet grown up on our own soil. The authoress is the wife of an English physician who lived at Vancouver, British Columbia, and is still a resident of that beautiful region.

Mrs. Bodington has become a Neo-Lamarckian in her views after an impartial examination of the evidence offered by paleontology, and she says: "Neo-Lamarckism supplies the 'motif' which runs through almost every study in this little book. I had not met with the works of Lamarck when these studies were written, yet it seems to me that every advance in the physical sciences which I have endeavored to chronicle adds a fresh laurel to the fame of this most unjustly decried genius. If we, who love and honor the name of Darwin, look upon him as the Newton of evolution, we surely shall not detract from his fame if we look upon Lamarck as its Galileo."